



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

June 13, 2011, 4 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

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Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

** New Items and changes are listed at the top in red**

NEMA Monitors Platte and Missouri Rivers as Part of Flood Response

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff is getting daily situational updates and resource requests from county emergency managers along the Missouri River. NEMA has also positioned a contingent of four National Guard Troops, three FEMA staff and a NEMA liaison tasked with developing situational awareness, identifying critical infrastructure and supporting the local emergency managers and emergency management operations in monitoring the Platte River from Brady west to the Wyoming line.

Fire Safety

The State Fire Marshal reminds citizens to use caution:

- Electricity and water are a shock hazard and do not mix.
- When using a generator, make sure disconnects are provided to prevent electrical feedback on primary power supply lines.
- Generators should never be utilized in enclosed areas or near building openings due to the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Avoid fires that may be caused by overloading wiring circuits.

Citizens in areas where gas utilities are present should immediately report any gas outages, leaks, associated odors, or appliance pilots or flames that are burning abnormally high to the gas provider.

Any propane grill bottles or tanks threatened by flooding should be removed or relocated to avoid free floating tanks and loss of product.

Insurance

National Flood Insurance Program Questions should be directed to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at (402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932.

Private Individual Policy Questions should be directed to your local agent or the Nebraska Department of Insurance at (402) 471-2201 or Toll Free Hotline (877) 564-7323. Consumers interested in purchasing flood insurance need to check with their agent to clarify whether the policy would be in effect for this incident.

FEMA officials report that most companies are reporting that it is too late to sign up for flooding insurance along the Missouri River for this incident. Most new flooding insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before coverage becomes effective and flood policies have exclusions for *flooding in progress* which was declared June 1 for the Missouri River-related to the May 24 Garrison Dam release.

River Levels -- National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of June 13:

South Sioux City – 33.11, flood stage is 30 feet

Decatur – 37.55, flood stage is 35 feet

Blair – 31.49, flood stage is 26.5 feet

Omaha – 32.26, flood stage is 29 feet

Plattsmouth – 32.57 feet , flood stage 26 feet

Nebraska City – 24.64 feet, flood stage 18 feet

Brownville – 40.68 feet, flood stage is 33 feet

Rulo – 24.61 feet, flood stage is 17 feet

Henry – 6.38 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet

Mitchell – 9.51 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Minatare – 7.5 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Bridgeport – 8.48 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet

Lisco – 4.1 feet, flood stage is 4 feet

Lewellen – 8.21 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

North Platte – 7.53 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Brady – 7.85 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Cozad – 5.86 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Overton – 6.14 feet, flood stage is 7 feet

Kearney – 5.75 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Grand Island – 5.64 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Duncan – 5.54 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

North Bend – 5.4 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Leshara – 5.93 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Ashland – 16.48, flood stage is 20 feet

Louisville – 5.13, flood stage is 9 feet

Evacuations

Be safe and listen to public officials. Please evacuate if advised to do so. The following voluntary evacuations have occurred:

- **Burt County:** 40 to 50 people were advised to evacuate
- **Washington County:** 150-180 were advised to evacuate
- **Richardson County:** One family
- **Cass County:** 25 at Lake WaConDa and eight along the Platte and Missouri rivers.
- **Sarpy County:** 6-12 homes from Iske Park and Elbow Bend
- **Dixon County:** 40-50 people from cabins along the river
- **Lincoln County:** Some voluntary evacuations
- **Thurston County:** 12 people evacuated from Macy
- **Boyd County:** Four people evacuated

- **Knox County:** Approximately 200 homes between Verdel and Niobrara have evacuated – all but 21 are secondary residences. One primary residence east of Niobrara.

New Web resources:

- **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension:** <http://flood.unl.edu/>
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Flood-related resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov

Para información de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos <http://www.nema.nebraska.gov/newsroom/flooding-information.html>

State Response

Residents should stay tuned to local news and follow directions from local and state officials.

The Coast Guard restriction on recreational boats on the Missouri River along the Nebraska-Iowa border remains in effect.

Flood Hotline

A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454, will be staffed from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends**. The hotline can be busy, please be patient.

Railroad information toll-free telephone lines

Burlington Northern Santa Fe – 1-800-832-5452 select #3

Union Pacific Response Management Communications Center (RMCC) at 888-877-7267.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Joint Information Center – (402) 996-3877 www.nwo.usace.army.mil email: MRJIC@usace.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency

If you are not sure if you are in flood-prone area, check out the FEMA map service center: <http://msc.fema.gov> **Flood insurance claims** -- According to a FEMA official, existing flood insurance policy claims will be paid regardless of how the flooding was caused. For most new flood insurance policies there is a 30-day waiting period.

Behavioral Health

Natural disasters often lead to prolonged emotional and physical stress. These are common reactions when recovering from storm or flood damage. People should take care of themselves during this stressful time. Get plenty of rest. Stay connected with family and friends and support each other. If stress is interfering with day-to-day life, it may be time to seek help. If you or someone you know is suffering from signs of stress due to flooding in your area, call the **NEMA Public Information Hotline at (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454**. The operators can provide you with information on mental health crisis counseling and other services.

Nebraska Department of Roads Information

Current flooding emergency road information is available from the Nebraska Department of Roads at: www.roads.ne.gov/flood/. Additional road closure information is available at: www.511.nebraska.gov. Citizens are encouraged to find alternate routes. Do not drive over any road that is covered with flood waters. Do not remove road closure barricades. Barricades are in place for your safety.

State Road closures:

- **I-29-** The Iowa Department of Transportation closed a section of I-29 north of Council Bluffs. The closure affects I-29 from 25th Street at the northern edge of Council Bluffs to the I-29/680 interchange near Loveland. It's a 16-mile stretch of interstate.
- **I-680 west of I-29** - in Iowa is closed due to floodwaters. A detour is being established that will start at the I-29/680 interchange near Loveland, continue east to the I-80/680 interchange and then southwest on I-80 to Council Bluffs.
- **Highway 12** –
 - Due to water over the road, Hwy 12 is closed east of Niobrara from the East edge of Niobrara to the Santee Spur.
 - A west section of Hwy 12 is also closed from Verdel to approximately 3 miles West of Niobrara.

- West Hwy 12 traffic should take US Hwy 81, south to Hwy 84, then west on 84 to 84/13 junction, West on Hwy 13 the junction of 13/14 at Verdigre. Travel south on Hwy 14 to US Hwy 20, then west to the west junction of US281/20 located in O'Neill, then North on US281 to the junction of Hwy 12.
- Hwy 12 East traffic should travel South on US281 from the 281/12 junction to the junction of US20/US281, then East on US20 to the junction of US20/hwy14, then North on 14 to the junction of 14/13 at Verdigre. From Verdigre, East on Hwy 13 to the 13/84 junction, East on Hwy 84 to US 81, North on 81 to the junction of Hwy 12.
- Those traveling to Niobrara may take the North route on Hwy 14 from the 14/13 junction located at Verdigre.
- **I-680 going into Iowa** from Nebraska at exit 13. Traffic is being detoured south on U.S. 75 through Omaha to I-480
- **Highway 30** – Hwy 30 is closed from the Maxwell Viaduct to east of the North Platte Airport due to flooding.
 - Westbound Detour Route is: South from Maxwell on S-56A (Maxwell Link) to I-80; I-80 to L-56G (Newberry Link); North on L-56G to Hwy 30. *Reverse this for the Eastbound Detour Route*
- **Highway 92** – closed from mile marker 164-203
- **Highway 14/37** – is closed from Highway 12 North to the South Dakota border at Standing Bear Bridge.
- **Burt/Washington Counties** - For residents east of 35 on P14 (Cottonwood Area) that all access will be denied as of 12:00 p.m., Sunday, June 12th. County Road 30 is expected to close today, Saturday, June 11. The detour signs that have been placed on Highway 133 are in anticipation of the closing of Highway 30 and 75, NOT I-29.
- **Garden County** - Road 199a is closed from Road 46 to Road 44.

Local street closures: (Not included on State 511 information system.)

South Sioux City:

- Riverview Drive east of Scenic Park Apartments will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- East 17th Street east of Arbor Acres will be closed will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- Foundry Road east of the Sioux City Foundry will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- West Third Street, west of Eighth Avenue is closed for the duration of the flooding
- Golf Road west of Elgin Avenue will be closed temporarily over the next four days.
- Golf Road east of Elgin will have traffic restrictions due to heavy machinery entering the road way

Shelters open/ Red Cross

- Fort Calhoun – Fort Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln Street.
- South Sioux City Middle School – 3625 G Street

For more information check www.redcross.org or call **1-800-RedCross** to find the chapter serving your area.

Call **211** (human services helpline) to find out what resources are available; or visit the United Way of Midlands 211 website at <http://www.ne211.org> an additional number is **(402) 444-6666**.

Animal Health

Flood waters displace wild animals as well as humans. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) warns people that wildlife may act abnormally due to the stress of displacement. As animals interact and compete for the same resources, diseases such as rabies have an increased chance of transmission. DHHS always recommends avoiding direct contact with wild animals; however, under these circumstances they may be in unexpected places and act more aggressively.

Flood waters may also displace reptiles such as snakes and turtles. Information on reptiles indigenous to Nebraska can be found at <http://snr.unl.edu/herpneb/>.

Water Testing

Well owners should take the following steps if they believe their well will be impacted:

- Before taking the well out of service, store a supply of clean water;
- Disconnect the power supply for the well. Consult a Nebraska-licensed well driller or pump installer if help is needed;
- Perform actions necessary to make the well water-tight, including removing the well vent and replacing it with a water-tight plug, and sealing any visible joint openings with water-tight caulking or equivalent material;
- Cover the top of the well with a heavy-duty plastic trash bag or equivalent protective covering and tightly secure it, making it as water-tight as possible to keep out dirt, debris and contaminants.

Sealing won't eliminate the need for testing and possible disinfection, but it will provide the best chance for the well to come on-line quickly and minimize repair costs and maintenance.

Flood Clean Up Scams

Homeowners and businesses that have experienced flooding are asked to remain vigilant when it comes to hiring services or purchasing goods. For tips on avoiding home repair scams, please visit the Nebraska Better Business Bureau's website at www.bbb.org or the Attorney General's website at www.ago.ne.gov. If you feel you have been a victim of a clean-up or home improvement scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 727-6432.

Phone Numbers

- Nebraska Flooding Hotline: Toll Free (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2452 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Nebraska Department of Insurance (877) 564-7323
- Iowa Flooding Response (515) 725-3231 or **Iowa Concern Hotline** at **1-800-447-1985**
- South Dakota (605) 773-3132 or toll free at (877) 579-0015
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Information Center (402) 996-3877

Nebraska County Emergency Management contact information

- Douglas County Emergency Management Agency [website](#) or call 402-444-5040.
- Douglas County Health Department: [website](#) or call 402-444-7471.
- Sarpy County Emergency Management Agency [website](#) or call 402-593-5785.
- Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness [information](#) on precautions, immunizations recommended during a flood. Or call 402-339-4334 or 800-645-0134.
- Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District [Facebook](#) updates.
- Washington, Dodge and Burt Counties Emergency Management Agency, call 402-727-2785 or the 24-hour hot line at 800-374-7356, or go [online](#).
- Knox County [Emergency Manager](#) or call 402-288-5613.

County Updates:

Several counties have issued declarations; Knox, Dakota, Burt, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Lincoln, Boyd, Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Richardson, Scotts Bluff and Otoe.

Missouri River — County Updates

- **Boyd County:** Private wells are being contaminated in the areas that are flooding in Sunshine Bottoms which has been evacuated. There are concerns about phone service due to no cell service near the river and now numerous phone lines are under water.
- **Burt County:** A Public meeting in Tekamah drew 270 individuals.
- **Cedar County:** Received first information of river coming out of its banks near Aten.
- **Cass County:** The City of Plattsmouth waste water treatment plant began taking silt and apparent river water into the plant. City officials have deemed it prudent to begin full wastewater (sewage) bypass as soon as possible.
- **Dakota County:** South Sioux City: Six National Guard troops are monitoring levees. Water, wastewater and storm water systems have been protected from the floods to ensure continued service. These efforts include; sandbagging and/or building structures around the one drinking water lift station, four wastewater lift stations and installing pumps to pump storm water from protected parts of the city to the Missouri river.
- **Dixon County:** The emergency manager is reporting that there are 40-50 summer seasonal homes that were evacuated, but they are secondary residences and will not require sheltering needs.
- **Douglas County:** Areas affected by flooding are: NP Dodge Park, Freedom Park, Lewis and Clark landing and the waste water treatment plant.
- **Knox County:** There are 180 vacation homes and 20 permanent residents between Verdel and Niobrara that have voluntarily evacuated. In addition, one home east of Niobrara has been evacuated. No shelter has been needed and no long-term shelter needs are anticipated.
- **Otoe County:** Sandbagging continues at the Nebraska City waste water and Omaha Public Power District plant.
- **Richardson County:** Volunteers are now working with city and county personnel to place sandbags. They are still in the process of making preparation to protect the water system. The county emergency manager sent a disaster declaration to NEMA Monday, June 6.
- **Thurston County:** The Macy High School shelter site has been changed to an information center that will be opened from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- **Washington:** Power was turned off to flooded areas and several roads are closed

Platte River — County Updates

- **Lincoln County:** Areas affected by flooding and road closures are Highway 30 east, North River Road at North Platte and north of Sutherland, North Airport road, East Long School Road , Highway 83 and areas east and north of North Platte.
- **Scotts Bluff County** declared a emergency because of flooding throughout the county. Areas affected by flooding include: Western Engineering Sandpit, Riverside Park, Trails West, Monument Pathways, south Mitchell, Westmoor area, Broadway businesses, south of west Overland and west of Avenue 'B', and south Morrill. Emergency managers continue to monitor the river around Terrytown.

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